

Free Press Editorial Page

## Watch out for '79!

"Watch out for 1979!" fair president Brent Marshall said after this year's fair was over, rain and all.

He said when the weather was at its worst Sunday afternoon, directors sat down together in the rain-soaked park, and talked about next year.

They have lots of new ideas to implement. And they have to figure out how to keep their Class B fair image bright, despite Sunday's washout.

The concern about lost receipts on Sunday is of course great. They had hoped to overcome and over-

ride last year's deficit.

Many Sunday exhibitors were also very disappointed.

But for most of us, the great success of Friday and Saturday leaves happy memories of another sunny, super fair. There were exhibits and entertainment, with attractions for people of all ages. More and more come from out-of-town to relish the atmosphere.

Thanks to the many people who provided it all! What can we wish you but perfect weather for three days in September next year—another Acton fair weekend.

## A bit of history



The remodelling at Nielsen's clothing store uncovered a bit of history. Underneath the panelling at the front of the store is a frosted glass pane reading "Rachlin Men's Wear."

Nielsen's has been painted an imaginative lime green and purple, dating from the time, not so long ago, when psychedelic colors were favorites.

Now the new decor will be more in keeping with the refurbishing of some of the other attractive old store fronts along the main streets.

## Milton survey says 'no'

Our sister paper, the Milton Champion, had a fantastic response on the question of fluoride in their water supply. Over 600 people signed their names to comments strongly opposing the decision from regional council. That decision goes for Acton, too, but the Free Press hasn't heard a word on the subject! If you want to

read why Miltonians object so much, Champions are available at our front counter, Joke's variety store, Ed's In and Out, and Royal Variety store for 15 cents. There are over four pages full of comments on the issue.

Some writers would like to do away with regional government along with the fluoride.

## Of this and that

Stains in porcelain fixtures are definitely noticeable, since the new well with its high iron content began to flow into the town water. There's a lot more scrubbing to be done these days.

We all know it...sometimes there's a strong smell in Acton. But where does it come from? Tanning? Compost? Sewage disposal? Other factories? Who knows for sure.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### Centennial at Mount Forest

Dear Editor:  
The Centennial Committee of the Town of Mount Forest, Ontario feels that there may be some of your readers who have lived in our town at some time. Or may have friends or relatives who have done so. Because we want to reach as many of these people as possible to invite them to our centennial festivities in '79 we are hoping you will publish this letter and help us reach them.

The main events will centre around the week of June 29 to July 7 with the monster centennial parade on Monday, July 2. Anyone wishing to be on the list of invitations can notify Mrs. Annabelle Langdon, Mount Forest, Ontario, NOG 2L0.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. Jean Weber,  
Centennial Chairwoman

### Commends Fiddle Contest

Acton Free Press:  
Acton, Ont.  
Dear Mr. Editor:  
I would like to commend to your readers the Fiddle Contest sponsored by your Acton Agricultural Society. This was a well-planned event and deserved more spectators than were present.

The generous prizes attracted a group of top-notch musicians who have travelled the province to compete in Fiddle Festivals.

Perhaps you thought "Old Time Fiddlers" were a bunch of backwoods scrappers but this is no longer true. Many well-trained and highly skilled young people can now set your toes really tapping to very enjoyable music.

The Agricultural Society put on a show worthy of a really big turn-out and I hope many more will attend next year.

Mrs. Ariel Dyer  
Guelph

### The meals got through

Dear Mrs. Dills,  
By way of the Acton Free Press I would like to take the opportunity to say Thank You to a truly special group of people who daily give of themselves and their time, to deliver the Meals, through the Meals on Wheels program, to our Seniors of Acton. During the School Year The Reliable Taxi, at no charge, brings our meals from Milton Manor where they are prepared and without their assistance during this time the program could not be as successful as it is. During the summer months and school holidays the volunteers drive to Milton daily to pick up the meals and during this past summer our volunteers never missed a day and the program continued without a hitch.

To our regular, faithful, volunteers, all those who helped out during the summer

months, especially the school teachers, to the children of volunteers who accompanied their parents and helped to deliver, to Lorna Clark at the Municipal Office who many days thought she was running the program by herself, I wish to say Thank You.

Today, while many people are affected by the transit strike in Toronto, by the rising costs in our communities, and the everyday problems of a family life, it does one's heart good to be able to say "People do care about others and find the time to help." In spite of snow, icy roads, accidents, illness, vacations and personal costs The Meals get through.

Thank you to all of you.

Terry Grubbe  
Co-Ordinator  
Acton Community Service Centre.



SATURDAY'S SUNSHINE brought record-breaking crowds to the park for the fall fair. Organizers hopes

were high as they envisioned wiping out their deficit and making a profit this. That was Saturday.

## Saturday's sunshine . . . and Sunday's mud



MIDWAY MUCK AND MUD made a dismal picture Sunday as most of the fair's activities were cancelled. A few hardy (or bored) youngsters ventured out to try

their luck amid the puddles of one of the worst downpours of the season. Rain, where were you in July?



## Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

There's probably only one thing more boring than being forced to watch slides of someone else's holiday jaunt, and that is having to listen to them tell about it. But if you think that you are going to get away with only two columns about "OUR TRIP," you might as well turn over to the real estate ads right now, gentle reader.

Not after I spent all that money. I've had two long-distance calls and a letter in the past 10 days from the Chargex people. Seems we went over our limit by about double, and the bills are still coming in. Oh, well, that's inflation.

On a trip like ours, it's probably a good idea to take notes, or keep a diary. I never do this; too interested in people and places to try to put them down. Tried to keep it all in my head, in pictures. Result: for 10 days after we got home I couldn't sleep, with all those pictures, hopelessly mixed, flashing through my mind.

When you hit eight countries in 14 days, it's more like low-flying than an in-depth study of the treasures of Europe. But it's amazing what you can and do see and experience.

For the average traveller who is not an art expert, there is serious danger of picking up a couple of diseases, cathedrals and basilicas. The symptoms are similar. If you see a person with head cricked right back, and mouth open, he's probably just back from Europe.

While the cathedrals are awesome in their structure and art work, they tend to make you feel like a very small minnow in a very large ocean. And probably that's what they're supposed to do. We were in the largest and third-largest in the world, in Rome and Florence, both designed by Michelangelo, and I don't care if I never

see another. They make you humble in the face of the patience, the reverence, and the genius that went into their creation.

And we saw a lot of famous works of art: the Venus de Milo, a stocky broad with no arms; the Mona Lisa, looking anything but enigmatic behind six layers of bullet-proof glass. It was no more thrill than looking at a good color photo of them in an art book.

But that's not the sort of thing you remember from a trip. You remember the highlights and the human relations, the bad moments and the exalted ones.

Like going through the Dolomites, a range of mountains so forbidding they make the Rockies look genial, in a rain-storm, the driver inching around hairpin turns.

Or a magnificent summer evening with good wine, good food, good music, good friends, on a balcony overlooking the beautiful Tivoli gardens, outside Rome.

Or wandering around the Mont Marte in Paris, haunt of famous writers and artists over the years, watching the painters at work, haggling over a picture, maybe having your portrait done in 10 minutes.

Or being kicked off the grass in Monte Carlo by a surly Monaco cap. Or hustling through the rain in Heidelberg, trying to buy suppositories with your scanty German.

Or sitting on your balcony in Lucerne, wondering what the poor folks were doing, as you looked over the lake to the mountains.

Or admiring the lady of the streets, who saw us gawking at her as she leaned against a building, turned her back, flipped up her skirt, no pants on, some of the bolder spirits told me. I, of course, had covered my hand with my eyes, or something like that.

Or discovering in your room a small bar-refrigerator, stocked with everything from Coke to champagne. All you had to do was help yourself, mark down what you'd used, and pay for it in the morning. Can't see a

North American hotel trusting anyone that much.

Or watching your wife, the insomniac at home, sleeping: on the bus, on the ferry, in a boat in the canals of Amsterdam, on a boat down the Rhine, on the Seine, on the trian. The only place she didn't sleep was in the hotel rooms, worrying about getting up at 6 a.m. and on the Hovercraft from France to England, which took only 35 minutes.

Perhaps the best part of a group tour, as I mentioned, is the relationships you form. We had Canadians from as far apart as Dawson City, the Yukon, and Nova Scotia, the whole breadth of the country.

We had Americans from California, Texas, Illinois, Oregon, and Iowa. And we had five Australians. Have you ever heard a lady from Texas trying to talk to a middle-aged French-Canadian or a young Australian? It's a riot.

At first we were all a bit stand-offish, tending to huddle with our own. But after a few days we were helping each other with language, funny money and lost luggage. The ladies were exchanging travel irons, hair dryers, recipes, and anecdotes about toilets.

Ironically, from this land of separatism and stuff, perhaps the best friends we made on the tour were Quebecois. And I think I know why. I dusted off my rusty French and made an effort, and they did the same with their English.

An Australian lad and his sister became almost like a son and daughter to us. A young Canadian school teacher from Calgary wept and hugged and kissed when we bumped into her after the tour, in London.

We drank dinner with two handsome young couples from Illinois several times. The Ladies Texas invited us down for Christmas. Donald, from Quebec, wants me to find a school where his daughter can learn English. And I was like to be kissed and hugged to death by 18-year-old Cathy, from Oregon. My shirt was all wet with tears after our farewell party.

Very nice work, if you can get it.

## The Free Press Back Issues

### 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, September 18, 1968  
A province-wide manhunt continues today for a young Hamilton man who escaped from Halton's century-old jail in Milton, Sunday night.

Farm community and townspeople will find entertainment, interesting displays, competitions, music and plenty of fun at the 55th annual fall fair of the Acton Agricultural Society this weekend. For the second year the fair's events are extended to include an interdenominational church service Sunday afternoon.

A grand jury report making recommendations to cure the shortcomings of the Halton County Jail in Milton was submitted to the Honorable Justice Parker on September 10, just five days before four prisoners broke out Sunday evening.

Ladies Softball semi-finals between Georgetown and Acton in Glen Williams last Monday night was a close, well played game. Georgetown surged ahead in the final innings to win 19-14 eliminating Acton from the series.

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of September 25, 1958  
Sparked by excellent weather nearly 10,000 people filed through the gates at the Acton Park last Friday and Saturday to enjoy the Agricultural Society's annual autumn presentation of exhibits, competitions and entertainment. Fall Fair president W. Thompson pointed out this year's fall fair was the largest since World War two, if not the largest in the history of the Acton fair.

A breakdown of water service installations in 32 lots in the Glenlea subdivision revealed the Public Utilities Commission was assuming a loss of \$33 on installation charges, during the regular meeting of the commission on Thursday, September 18.

A full YMCA program will begin next week. The Y board and the Y's Men's Club are carrying on activities here without a general secretary this year.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 29, 1928

A year ago we penned a heading for the report of Acton Fall Fair which read "The Acton Fall Fair of 1927 Makes a Record Hard to Equal". But apparently, records are made only to be broken as this year's fair would seem to prove. Although the weather was cool, it was ideal fall days, both Tuesday and yesterday. It is said one success leads to another and the splendid success of the fair last year paved the way for greater achievements this year and this year will no doubt make ready for a larger fair in 1929.

Mrs. W.S. Coleman received a letter this week via the air mail route from Mr. Coleman. It was posted at Lachine Rapids, Quebec and came here from there to Montreal via air post.

Last Wednesday afternoon or evening, sneak thieves forced an entrance into Mr. A.B. McLean's barber shop. Cigarettes and tobacco and other small articles were taken by the intruders.

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of September 19, 1878

A large crowd gathered in Matthews Hall to hear the telegraphic reports of the election. A wire had been fixed in the hall by Mr. A. E. Matthews, the enterprising agent for the Montreal line.

Another large crowd gathered at Christie, Henderson and Co.'s store where the Dominion Line sent out its share of the reports. When the report came that Macdougall was elected cheers broke out for the Conservative cause. The crowds then went to Secord's corner where a huge bonfire was kindled. When the fire burned down the crowds adjourned to Agnew's Hotel where addresses were delivered by the local leaders of each side.

Butter is 12 cents per lb. in Ballinfad and eggs 10 cents a dozen. On hand at the Post office store are butter 550 lbs., eggs 400 dozen.

A lady is not an athlete although she does generally jump at a chance.

It is our painful duty to record the death of Mr. Sydney Smith, a resident for 20 years. He had been running the plow factory in the village.

The sidewalk near the English church on West Bower Ave. needs repairing.

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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Business and Editorial Office



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Letters welcome